

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, YO, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON YUGOSLAVIA

REF: BELGRADE 0762

1. AFP REPORT CARRIED IN RED TANJUG (REFTEL) MISQUOTES THAT PORTION DEALING WITH YUGOSLAVIA FROM SECRETARY'S REMARKS BEFORE PANEL DISCUSSION GROUP (BLUE RIBBON 400") IN LOS ANGELES FEBRUARY 2. PERTINENT SECTIONS FROM TRANSCRIPT FOLLOW:

2. THE QUESTION FROM ONE OF THE FOUR PANELISTS DEALT WITH THE NATURE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES AND THE VIEW HELD BY "SOME OF THE FRENCH" THAT THESE PARTIES ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY WERE THIRTY YEARS

AGO. "THEY SAY THE DEMOCRATS ESSENTIALLY WILL COOPERATE WITH NATO. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THIS? DO YOU THINK THE CHANGE IS FUNDAMENTAL OR NOT?"

3. SECRETARY: " ... I HAVE THE GRAVEST DOUBT WHETHER THE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNISTS IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE NATURE OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WHICH WE KNOW. THESE PARTIES REFLECT A SET OF SOCIAL PRIORITIES WHICH MUST WEAKEN WESTERN DEFENSE. THEY REFLECT

A SET OF ATTITUDES WHICH WILL MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATO COUNCIL, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE KINDS OF FRANK BRIEFINGS AND EXCHANGES THAT HAVE GROWN UP OVER THE YEARS. EVEN IF ONE MODERATE PARTY GETS INTO OFFICE IN ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES, IT WILL SET A PRECEDENT FOR MANY OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES.

--- FINALLY, WE OUGHT TO REMEMBER THAT EVEN IF THEY ARE RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT OF MOSCOW -- WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE TRUE -- BUT, EVEN IF THEY ARE, THE FOREIGN POLICY, SAY, OF YUGOSLAVIA, WHILE ORIENTED TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE IS CERTAINLY NOT AS CLOSE TO US, TO PUT IT MILDLY, IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD -- AND I SAY THIS ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE HERE IN PUBLIC -- AS THAT OF OUR NATO ALLIES. SO, ON THE WHOLE, IF COMMUNIST PARTIES PARTICIPATE IN A MAJOR WAY IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF WESTERN EUROPE IT WILL, IN OUR VIEW, LEAD TO A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF ALLIED RELATIONSHIPS.

--- I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT A DECISION THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN MAKE. BUT IF WE ARE ASKED, AS YOU ASK ME, THEN WE HAVE TO EXPRESS OUR VIEW. AND OUR VIEW IS THAT THIS WILL MAKE A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE RELATIONSHIPS OF THE WESTERN WORLD."

3. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO ALL WHO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT RED TANJUG PIECE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ALLEGEDLY QUOTED THEREIN WERE DISTORTED.

YOU MAY USE TRANSCRIPT EXCERPTS ABOVE AS SEEMS MOST APPROPRIATE. SISCO
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